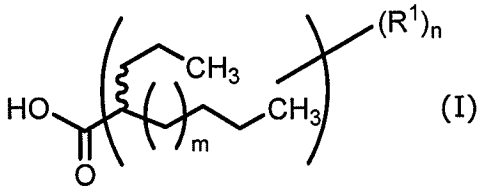
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(currently amended):** A compound represented by formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R^1 represents hydroxy or oxo,

~~~ indicates α-configuration, β-configuration or a mixture of these in an arbitrary proportion,

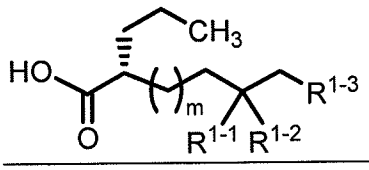
n represents an integer of 1 to 3, and

m represents an integer of 1 to 10; and

wherein two or more R^1's are not bound to the same carbon atom other than the terminal carbon atom,

a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof,

in which said compound is a compound represented by formula (I-2):



(I-2)

wherein

R^{1-1} and R^{1-2} are each independently a hydrogen atom or hydroxy, or
~~~

R^{1-1} is taken together with R^{1-2} to represent oxo,

R^{1-3} represents a hydrogen atom or hydroxy,

m represents an integer of 1 to 10, and

indicates α-configuration; and

wherein, when R^{1-1} is taken together with R^{1-2} to represent oxo, R^{1-3} represents a hydrogen atom,

with the proviso that (2R)-7-oxo-2-propyloctanoic acid is excluded.

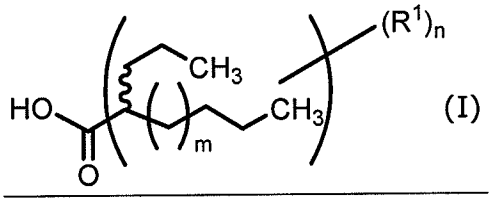
2.-6. **(canceled).**

7. **(currently amended):** ~~The~~ A compound ~~according to claim 6, which is~~ selected from the group consisting of ~~(2R)-7-oxo-2-propyloctanoic acid,~~ (2R,7R)-7-hydroxy-2-propyloctanoic acid, (2R,7S)-7-hydroxy-2-propyloctanoic acid and (2R)-8-hydroxy-2-propyloctanoic acid, a salt thereof, or a prodrug thereof.

8. **(currently amended):** The compound according to claim ~~6~~ 1 or 7, which is obtained by chemical synthesis.

9. **(currently amended):** A pharmaceutical composition, which comprises:

~~the~~ a compound represented by formula (I): ~~depicted in claim 1, a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof,~~



(I)

wherein

R^1 represents hydroxy or oxo,

~~~ indicates α-configuration, β-configuration or a mixture of these in an arbitrary proportion,

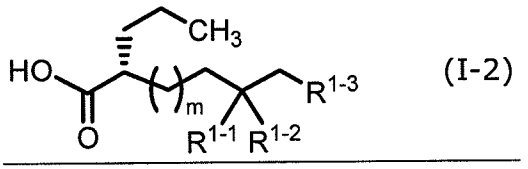
n represents an integer of 1 to 3, and

m represents an integer of 1 to 10; and

wherein two or more R^1's are not bound to the same carbon atom other than the terminal carbon atom,

a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof,

in which said compound is a compound represented by formula (I-2):



(I-2)

wherein

R^{1-1} and R^{1-2} are each independently a hydrogen atom or hydroxy, or

R^{1-1} is taken together with R^{1-2} to represent oxo,

R^{1-3} represents a hydrogen atom or hydroxy,

m represents an integer of 1 to 10, and

▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪ indicates α-configuration; and
~~~

wherein, when R^{1-1} is taken together with R^{1-2} to represent oxo, R^{1-3} represents a hydrogen atom, and

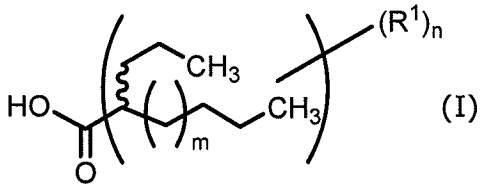
a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~carrier or diluent~~ additive agent.

10.-18. **(canceled).**

19. **(currently amended):** A method for ~~preventing and/or~~ treating a neurodegenerative disease, which comprises administering to a mammal an effective amount of the compound represented by formula (I) depicted in claim 1, a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof.

20. **(canceled).**

21. **(new):** A compound represented by formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R^1 represents hydroxy or oxo,

~~~~ indicates α-configuration, β-configuration or a mixture of these in an arbitrary proportion,

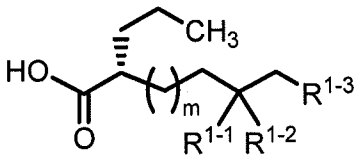
n represents an integer of 1 to 3, and

m represents an integer of 1 to 10; and
~~~~

wherein two or more $R^{1'}$s are not bound to the same carbon atom other than the terminal carbon atom,

a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof,

in which said compound is a compound represented by formula (I-2):



(I-2)

wherein

R^{1-1} and R^{1-2} are each independently a hydrogen atom or hydroxy,

R^{1-3} represents a hydrogen atom or hydroxy,

m represents an integer of 1 to 10, and

"""""""""" indicates α-configuration.